



Security Council

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Letter dated 12 December 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 5 December 2017 ([S/2017/1034](#)), in which I informed the President of the Security Council of the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, and to his reply dated 8 December 2017 ([S/2017/1035](#)), in which he took note of my intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Mixed Commission, with funding from the regular budget. In this regard, I would like to inform you of the latest activities and achievements of the Mixed Commission.

As you know, the United Nations established the Mixed Commission to facilitate the implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 on the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary and territorial dispute. Through my good offices, and with the support of the Secretariat, I have continued to facilitate the implementation of the judgment.

The mandate of the Mixed Commission includes supporting the demarcation of the land boundary and the delineation of the maritime boundary, facilitating the withdrawal and transfer of authority, addressing the situation of affected populations and making recommendations on confidence-building measures. Achievements to date in the implementation of the judgment include the withdrawal of Nigeria and the transfer of authority to Cameroon in the Lake Chad area (December 2003), along the land boundary (July 2004) and on the Bakassi peninsula (a process that began in June 2006 and was completed in August 2008); the delineation of the maritime boundary (May 2007); and the end of the special transitional regime of five years and the exercise by Cameroon of its full right of sovereignty over the Bakassi zone (August 2013).

The Mixed Commission also approved the recommendations of the Working Group on the Maritime Boundary, including the provisions for cross-border cooperation on hydrocarbon deposits straddling the maritime boundary (March 2011).

While 2,005 km of the land boundary have been assessed and agreed upon, efforts are ongoing to break the deadlock regarding the 95 km of the boundary that are still disputed. My Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, undertook two mediation missions in 2018 with a view to resolving the issue with the heads of delegation of the two parties. The impetus for the mediation missions was the submission of written comments by Nigeria and Cameroon expressing differing opinions on the proposal for a final settlement. In an effort to reconcile the positions of the parties, the Special Representative travelled to Abuja and Yaoundé to meet the heads of delegation. Discussions are under way and both



parties are showing increasing willingness to bring their differing interpretations of various sections of the Court's judgment closer together. These efforts must continue and will produce satisfactory results if both parties continue to act in good faith.

Of the estimated 2,696 boundary pillars that will be required, a total of 991 have been successfully constructed as at October 2018. In November 2018, work resumed on the construction of 335 pillars in lot 4, following the implementation of robust security measures by the parties.

In September 2018, the United Nations support team held a working session with the parties on the production of final maps, with a view to discussing and agreeing on toponyms for a 30-km stretch of the land boundary that require the approval of both parties. As a result of the working session, 100 of the 132 maps have been updated to reflect the toponyms recognized by the parties. Work is under way to update the remaining 32 maps with additional information.

I am also pleased to inform you that the parties continue to demonstrate the political will to resolve the territorial dispute definitively. They have pledged to contribute \$6 million to the trust fund of the Mixed Commission, of which \$1.5 million has already been transferred.

The United Nations support team and the parties are making headway in terms of boundary demarcation. At the same time, renewed efforts must be made to promote early recovery and sustainable development. To this end, the United Nations support team and the parties, with the assistance of the United Nations country teams, have come up with several projects aimed at helping communities affected by the demarcation process. The projects are intended to strengthen confidence-building measures and relations between cross-border communities and improve basic services. The Mixed Commission will seek the support of the United Nations country teams to implement these projects.

The following activities are required to conclude the work of the Mixed Commission:

- (a) Agreement by the two parties on outstanding demarcation areas using an in-office, desktop evaluation and demarcation methodology;
- (b) Facilitation of the construction and emplacement of boundary pillars financed by the trust fund for demarcation activities;
- (c) Production of final maps and a boundary statement;
- (d) Promotion of cross-border cooperation, including maritime cooperation, and coordinated security monitoring along the land boundary;
- (e) Finalization of confidence-building initiatives for local communities affected by the demarcation process;
- (f) Implementation of the completion strategy by progressively handing over the activities of the Mixed Commission to the Joint Bilateral Commission and other subregional structures.

I would like to recall that, until 2003, the Mixed Commission had been funded entirely from extrabudgetary funds. Thereafter, from 2004 to 2018, its activities were funded through the regular budget. The Governments of Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay have provided in-kind contributions for the substantive and technical work of the Commission (military and legal experts). In addition, logistical support has been provided by the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, and voluntary contributions to the trust fund for demarcation activities have been made by both countries, as well as by Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union.

As has been the case in recent years, and given the cost-effectiveness of the operation and the important tasks remaining at this juncture to help to advance the peaceful implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice, it is my intention to ask for resources from the regular budget for the United Nations support team to cover the year 2019.

I should be grateful if you would bring the text of the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António **Guterres**
